

Session 12-08, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:33 p.m. on June 21, 2012 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONERS LOWNEY, LILLIBRIDGE, BREMICKER, BRANN, ARCHIBALD AND BELL

STAFF: JULIE ENGBRETSSEN, PLANNING TECHNICIAN
MIKE ILLG, RECREATION SPECIALIST
ANGIE OTTESON, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the agenda.

LILLIBRIDGE/BELL – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings Only)*

A. Minutes for the May 17, 2012 Regular Meeting

Chair Bremicker called for a motion to approve the minutes.

BRANN/LOWNEY – SO MOVED.

There was no discussion.

The minutes were approved by consensus of the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA *(Public may Comment on any items on the Agenda for a Three (3) Minute Time Limit)*

Beth Cumming, city resident, commented on reducing the speed limit on the entrance road into Karen Hornaday Park and the parking area at the park.

Kim Koppen, city resident, commented on the Disc Golf Course being installed at Jack Gist Park. She expressed concern that something should be passed with no notice to property owners. She expressed further concern that the installation was on city property and that they actually have permission to do so. She felt they were in her backyard and she has consulted attorneys who while sympathetic to her cause could not help her. She noted that she could throw a stone to where basket one and three are located. She cannot see the baskets but she can hear people back there. She felt she was being terrorized in her own back yard.

Commissioners Bremicker and Lillibridge responded to Ms. Koppen's concerns of the installation of the Disc Golf Course being installed without approval and that if people are on her property she can call the Police Department. They tried to address her claims of impropriety being done by the city.

Tony Arsenault, city resident, commented on the installation of the disc golf course behind his property and that this is really been hard on his wife and has been ongoing for several years. The

recommendation suggested several weeks ago to install a fence is a great idea. He also expressed concern that the commission voted down no alcohol in the parks. He requested the commission have the disc golf people put a fence around the whole perimeter. He is very stressed about the whole thing.

Chair Bremicker explained that the commission is advisory to the Council and although they could send a recommendation to Council to fence the park but that does not mean it will happen. Commissioner Brann noted that this Commission has already made a recommendation to install a natural fence to assist in noise and offer separation from the property owners and the Disc Golf players.

Mr. Arsenault stated that the group playing Disc Golf should abide by the same covenants as the neighborhood regarding quiet times.

The commissioners thanked them for both coming and expressing their concerns to the commission.

VISITORS

A. Todd Schroeder, Trails Technician, Homer Soils and Water Conservation District

Mr. Schroeder explained he was asked to come and talk to the commission regarding the trail that he is installing at the Pratt Museum constructing ADA accessible trails within the 10 acres that is located behind the museum. He is excited about the possible connectivity with trails from the Middle School and has been in talks with the US Fish & Wildlife Services to get that done. He personally can envision a trail from Spruceview through the museum land to Pioneer Avenue. He noted that the trails on the museum property will be finished in the near future and that Homer needs more trails that can accommodate all different levels of abilities.

Commissioner Lowney explained briefly why she invited Mr. Schroeder and opined that it would be an incredible benefit to making Homer more walkable.

Mr. Schroeder responded to questions from the Commissioners on connectivity to Woodard Creek trail and West Homer and the Middle School; increased foot traffic through the museum property and security; and the Diamond Creek Master Plan. He noted that he would welcome a chance to send out an electronic copy on the master plan.

The commissioners thanked Mr. Schroder for coming to the meeting.

B. Hans Rinke, Area Forester, State of Alaska Division of Forestry – Fire Safety

After a brief discussion it was agreed by consensus that this was not a priority for the commission.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

A. Community Recreation – Mike Illg

Mr. Illg provided a summary on his report. He noted that they have been receiving verbal and written offers of commitment from non-profit entities willing to partner with the Boys & Girls Club to provide a revenue source for the utilities also including the HERC building on the CIP list. He noted that the Alaska Recreation and Parks Conference will be held in Anchorage this year. He will also be nominating the Karen Hornaday Park for some state recognition. He noted that indoor floor hockey will be another activity offered by Boys & Girls Club, and he noted that the Mayor will be issuing a Proclamation that July is parks & recreation month.

Chair Bremicker made a few comments on the utilities and savings offered by the potential hook up to

the proposed natural gas line; Mr. Ilg responded to Commissioner Lillibridge inquiry regarding budgets on the HERC and Commissioner Archibald's comment on the Disc Golf Course.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the public comments made about the issues concerning the Disc Golf course at Jack Gist Park and what the Commission could do to mitigate the concerns expressed.

There was no further comments or discussion.

B. Staff Report – Julie Engebretsen, Planning Technician/GIS

Ms. Engebretsen stated her report was in the packet and if there were any comments or questions she would be happy to answer them. She also noted at the next Council meeting there were two ordinances on the agenda related to parks and rec, relocation of the Mariner Park entrance and the Beluga Slough Trail Reconstruction.

There was a dialogue on the actions of Council on the Resolution before Council regarding the proposed Kachemak Drive pathway. Ms. Engebretsen explained what actions were required from the path committee from this point forward.

Commissioner Archibald inquired about the Parks & Recreation Reserve Fund and how that works. Ms. Engebretsen responded that they can talk about that under the budget discussions.

There was no further discussion.

C. Parks Maintenance – Angie Otteson

Ms. Otteson provided updates on Karen Hornaday Park on the following:

The Red Shed will have the engineer appraisal when the engineer is in town. HoPP still has quite a bit a stuff in it; HoPP is still in the process of completing different items in the playground; she has the kiosk installed and will be posting information as it comes available. Currently she has the Map from the Master Plan and a Flyer on the highland Games; they are working on the Camp Host position there were some details that needed to be worked out; she will be posting that position as soon as possible. She noted that if there was anyone interested to have them contact Angie.

The connexes will be relocated to public works as soon as they are empty and the gravel pile is removed from in front of them.

A discussion regarding the responsibilities of the Park Camp Host continued on what was expected and the changes that were made to the position. It was recommended to include in the future budgets installation of a water line and electric to permanent campground host location. If the camp host is installed in the campground it would appear that they are monitoring the campground and if they are to be available consistently then they should be provided with electric and if patrols are expected maybe consideration to provide a golf cart also. It was agreed that the optimum location would be where the connexes are currently located. This would allow them a complete visual of the park as a whole, offer some privacy but also the visibility.

Some additional items talked about were as noted:

Commissioner Brann relayed an issue at the restrooms at Ben Walters Park and that the Rotary will be installing a bench on the dock for viewing. The water issues at the park have been repaired so Little League will be able to water the fields. The need to address removal of the old fencing materials by Little League was also brought to the floor.

Commissioner Archibald reported that he has spoken to the Mayor about getting recognition for Mr. Phil Needham for all his work that he has done on the ball fields at Karen Hornaday Park. The Clerk commented that this was on the City Council agenda for July 23, 2012.

Commissioner Lowney brought the discussion back to the red shed and her main concern with using the

building for a picnic shelter would provide a hazard with the doors opening onto the road from the one end of the structure. Further comments made on the building included removing all the sides except one and making it a covered area.

A brief conversation on recognizing all the efforts and work that volunteers and staff have done on the city parks and recreational areas plus since July is Parks & Recreation month bringing about the Adopt a Park and Trails.

Commissioner Lowney requested information on the current status of the \$90,000 and what has currently been spent. Staff will provide an update on that information.

Ms. Otteson answered a question on the area known as the t-ball field and if it could be re-purposed as another green space in response to Commissioner Lowney. Commissioner Lowney recommended the commission look at that again.

Ms. Otteson recommended quiet hours of 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. which would allow them to close the parks and tell people to leave the parks; the issues with Jack Gist have been going on before and it is City party; she agreed that it may be good to ban alcohol in the playground but most are pretty responsible; there have been no complaints from neighboring residents regarding noise or people in parks during those recommended hours; she would like advocating for and an additional \$10-15,000 would provide for additional temporary personnel in the shoulder period to get additional projects completed. Ms. Otteson noted that \$5,000 would extend the employment of 1 temporary staff member, \$10,000 would get another fulltime temporary person. She confirmed that \$20,000 would be great and not out of line to request.

Ms. Otteson confirmed that discussions have been held regarding relocating the picnic tables, gazebo, information kiosk, etc., in response to Commissioner Lillibridge inquiry.

The batting cage issues need to be addressed with Little League and maybe next year when they are formalizing the agreement with Little League the city can address some of the outstanding issues such as the batting cage, old materials, etc.

The commissioners offered a few additional comments on the Disc Golf course and setting quiet times.

Ms. Otteson will provide a list of volunteers and organizations for Commissioner Lowney.

Chair Bremicker called for a five minute break at 7:20 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 7:26 p.m.

D. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report – Bumpo Bremicker

Commissioner Brann provided an update on the committee's status. Chair Bremicker added that the information requested by Council they cannot proceed to much further. He also commented that no construction will be done this summer maybe next and that there may be other funding available to get this trail constructed.

Ms. Engebretsen stated that many of these questions have been deliberated on and she has prepared a memo to the Transportation Advisory Committee that addresses those questions and concerns of Council and all is need is passage of the memorandum then submitted for approval to this commission. Chair Bremicker stated he would not be in attendance and at staff suggestion will submit his comments in writing.

No further comments or questions.

E. Karen Hornaday Park Committee Report – Robert Archibald

Commissioner Archibald provided a short report from notes provided by the vice chair. He noted that the Red Shed will be an issue until the engineer can determine its stability. He commented briefly on the \$90,000 for the day use are improvements, the information kiosk, the field conditions are great, dugouts look awesome, and clearing up the debris that has been left.

Commissioner Lowney supported and strongly advocated for getting the engineering completed. This has been going on since before she was a commissioner and the rest of the park is an eyesore compared to the two wonderful completed areas.

Commissioner Lillibridge inquired about the engineer since they have been told over a year that it would be completed and now they have waited another month.

Staff noted that a discussion could be held on it later in the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings scheduled.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Park Signage – Uniform Design for All Parks

Staff recommended postponing a discussion on this for winter when Angie was not quite so busy. Commissioner Lowney did not want this to get lost and that each commissioner should consider what they would like to see in regards to park signage as there were many different styles.

The commissioners agreed by consensus to postpone this item to a fall or later agenda.

B. Park Day – Discussion on When, What and Time? We Have the Location – Jack Gist Park

The commissioners entertained a lengthy discussion on specifics and preferred content of Park Day after Commissioner Lowney reported her conversation with the Softball Association and their wish list. She commented that they were having a work party on July 7th.

The commission as a consensus agreed to have a fun day with a ball games, horse shoes and disc golf and assisting with a project that the Softball Association had on their list. Since the commissioner did not have a lot of funding available they like the suggestion from staff of helping to pay a bill at Spenard Building Supply or similar merchant instead of cutting them a check directly. Commissioner Lowney will get a list from Jessica with the Softball Association.

The Commissioners tentatively chose July 21, 2012. Commissioner Lowney will confirm with Jessica with the Softball Association on the preferred date and contact staff. The time set was noon until whenever. Chair Bremicker volunteered to bring the grills and be chef. Commissioner Lillibridge will send notice to the HoPPers.

They can determine final details at the July commission meeting.

C. Town Center Trails and Development

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for the agenda and opened discussion.

Ms. Engebretsen advised the commission on any discussions currently being held about this area and

recommended that the commission postpone any discussions until a later date when action may be pending by other commissions.

The Commission agreed by consensus to postpone to a later agenda for discussion.

- D. Karen Hornaday Park – Discussion on Status Update for Multiple Concerns and Projects
1. Day Use Improvements – Landscaping the Area Between Playground and Common Area
 2. Discussion on Disposition of Red Shed

Chair Bremicker introduced the item and opened the floor for discussion.

Dialog on the Red Shed –

1. Staff was not aware of any pending date for the appraisal by the engineer regarding safety.
2. It would be easy to relocate the building.
3. Do not want to keep it or use it in the current location due to the proximity to the road.
4. Repairs are required before it can be used.
5. Can day use funding be used to improve the building and what is the total that the Commission is willing to spend on repairs.
6. Not aesthetically pleasing as is, a very large building at 30 x 60 feet.
7. Can be moved to another location as meeting space.

LILLIBRIDGE/LOWNEY – MOVED TO DECONSTRUCT THE RED SHED, OR REMOVE IT FROM THE CURRENT LOCATION AND REPURPOSE OR REUSE THE BUILDING AS DETERMINED AT A FUTURE DATE.

Chair Bremicker declared he had a conflict of interest and explained that as an officer of the Wooden Boat Society he did not feel he should be included on a vote.

The commissioner declared he had a conflict.

Commissioner Brann declared he may have a conflict being a member of the Wooden Boat Society.

The commission declared he did not have a conflict and could vote on a decision.

Discussion on the condition of the red shed continued with comments on the condition of the red shed once determined by the inspection by the engineer. This commission determined before that they wanted to get rid of the building previously and forwarded this recommendation to council. This was not done due to public interest in keeping the building for historical aspects. It was strongly expressed that an engineer would inspect the building four weeks ago and it hasn't been done. Any action will not be taken immediately.

VOTE. YES. LILLIBRIDGE, LOWNEY
NO. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BELL

Motion failed.

LILLIBRIDGE/BRANN - MOVED TO RECEIVE A DETERMINATION FROM THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER PRIOR TO OR ON THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING DATE OF JULY 19, 2012.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Ms. Engebretsen provided brief direction on what was expected from the commission. She noted that she had to depart the meeting and advised the commission what was needed on the next several items remaining on their agenda. She additionally encouraged the commission to set a worksession as they will not be able to get through several of these items in one meeting.

Chair Bremicker brought the next item to the floor for discussion.

Ms. Krause tried to clarify that this item was briefly discussed at the last meeting and the commission decided that if the access road was a permanent used road it would be beneficial to make it a road using acceptable materials such as gravel. She noted that Ms. Engebretsen determined that it could be done at the cost of \$20,000 and should be included in the 2013 Budget Request to the City Manager.

Commissioner Lowney mentioned that she liked to alternative suggestion of using pavers to build the access road in the park.

Clarification was given on the \$25,000 Grant Application that was recently approved by Council was a new pot of money.

Junk in the Park – This item has been discussed previously and this will be addressed in a new agreement similar to the one just executed on the Jack Gist Park in the early part of next year. It was noted that this junk presented a hazard to user and was a good proponent for additional monies budgeted for parks and recreation maintenance. It was noted that in particular if Little League removes or replaces an item then the old need to be removed.

T- Ball Field Fencing – this is a good example of a separating fence; reuse of fencing is not all the easy; some suggestions for use have been horse shoe pits.

Creek Crossing/Bridge – The bridge over the ditch at Wright Street has been completed and installed.

A brief discussion on the bridge over Woodard Creek ensued. Commissioner Archibald commented on the use of the ramp for a bridge and that Jack Cushing will be drawing something up to present to Carey Meyer on the proposed bridge. Commissioner Lillibridge commented on the hospital view of a bridge over Woodard Creek was not favorable.

Preliminary Engineering – the allocation is still there and as far as staff knew no money has been spent.

E. Trails Brochure

Commissioner Lowney noted staff recommendation to postpone discussion and she also requested looking at the Website and requested that this item be postponed until a fall meeting date.

F. P & R Needs Assessment – Report and Status Update

Commissioner Lowney stated that the needs assessment has been put on hold because in a meeting with the MAPP people the program will contain most of the information that they will need can be gathered from that group and this will be a year or two.

Ms. Krause requested clarification that the Needs Assessment will be put off for up to two years. She explained that on the recommendation of the City Manager to the Commission to look into advocating a Parks & Recreation Department and then Mike Ilg stated that a Needs Assessment would be very instrumental in a decision from Council.

Further discussion on the needs assessment, value offered and information that can be pulled from the MAPP group. Chair Bremicker requested this item to be on the July agenda.

G. Pocket Park at Klondike and Kachemak Way

Chair Bremicker relayed the discussion that he had with the property owner who had nothing against a pocket park who did not have anything against the idea. He noted that the property owner was fully aware that he did not own that section of "his" front yard but did not mind mowing and caring for it.

BRANN/LILLIBRIDGE - MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM AS THE COMMISSION HAS OTHER MORE PRESSING ISSUES TO DEAL WITH.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 12-24(A) Re: Providing regulations for the Use of City Parks and Penalties for Violations

Chair Bremicker introduced the item for discussion and inquired if everyone read the related information.

A lengthy discussion opened on the proposed ordinance and issues discussed were:

- banning the removal of coal from the beaches
- banning alcohol in the playgrounds
- laws already in place to address the illegal behavior such as disorderly conduct
- state laws already in effect
- establishing hours for parks and recreation areas for consideration of nearby residents and parks with campgrounds
- establishing quiet times
- establishing fines and enforcement
- deterrent needed for unreasonable behavior

LILLIBRIDGE/BRANN – MOVED TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION OF NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN DESIGNATED PLAYGROUNDS.

Discussion ensued on how to designate the separation of playgrounds in parks that are not already designated by location or placement within the park such as Karen Hornaday Park. You need to address the behavior not the action, underage drinking will not be done in public view and the laws that are already in place to take care of the drunk person.

VOTE. NO. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, BELL, LOWNEY
YES. LILLIBRIDGE.

Motion failed.

BREMICKER/LOWNEY - MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVING ORDINANCE WITH NO CHANGES EXCEPT ADDING QUIET TIME OR CLOSURE FOR PARKS TO BE 11:00 P.M. TO 7:00 A.M.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. LOWNEY, BELL, ARCHIBALD, BRANN, BREMICKER
ABSTAIN. LILLIBRIDGE

Motion passed.

B. MAPP – Report from Commissioner Lowney and Discussion

This item was postponed to the July meeting due to the lateness of the hour.

C. HERC Building Discussion and Recommendations

This item was postponed to the next regular meeting due the lateness of the hour and was requested to be on the worksession agenda for July 11, 2012.

D. 2013 Budget – Needs, Must Haves and Wants – A Discussion

This item was postponed until the next regular meeting and requested to be on the agenda to discuss at the worksession scheduled for July 11, 2012.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Strategic Plan 2012

B. Commission Annual Calendar 2012

C. Resolution 11-90(A) and Information Packet, Council Meeting Minutes Excerpt April 23, 2012

E. Resolution 12-048, US Fish & Wildlife Learning Landscape Grant with 50% In-Kind Matching Grant up to \$25,000 to Complete Landscaping Improvements at Karen Hornaday Park playground.

F. Resolution 12-049, Approving the Jack Gist Recreational Park Land Use Agreement and Permit

G. Memorandum to Mayor and Council dated May 9, 2012 Re: Recommendation to Express Support for the Kachemak Bay Water Trail.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

There was no audience to comment.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER (if one is assigned)

There were no City Council members present.

COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Krause asked when the commissioners would like to schedule the worksession. Discussion ensued and the commission agreed by consensus on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Krause confirmed the worksession agenda as far as her understanding was to be on the Capital Improvement Plan, Budget, Park Day, and the HERC Building. She will also add regular agenda items so if there is any updates on items such as engineering and the Red Shed they can discuss those items.

There was a brief discussion that focusing on the CIP and Budget would clear up a lot of time

COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Lillibridge commented that she will not be able to attend the second council meeting in October and may not be at the Commission meeting either as her son is getting married. She still strongly believed that alcohol should not be allowed in areas where there are kids playing in any city park.

Commissioner Archibald wanted the Council to know the contentious issue that alcohol in parks around the kids presents; the budget this year is very important, ballfields are not cheap and they really need to make Council aware of the need and requirements for proper funding for Parks and Recreation. He would

also like to know what the Reserve Fund is and how that works. He cited an example of the revenue return on the investment of \$500,000 into a sports facility that was \$10 million after five years.

Commissioner Lowney commented that maintenance is very important and that is something that needs to be addressed, the new playground, new restrooms. The staff issues are critical. The HERC building needs to be included in the worksession. The commission needs to set time limits on discussion on the agenda items. During a visit to the museum recently they met the mayor and she inquired about a structure that was being built by the HERC building and the Mayor responded that a new female commissioner of the Parks & Rec authorized the structure to be built and Commissioner Lowney realized that was her Mayor Hornaday was referring to and she did not know the ins and outs of the situation but it is kind of interesting how rumors get around; Ms. Lowney wanted to assure the commission that she was not involved. She also wanted to address the issue of Thank You cards for the volunteers offering a more personalized thanks and she hopefully will have something for the next worksession. She would also like to do something with their website soon.

Commissioner Bell thanked the commissioners for having him and he threw out an idea – almost talked about the pocket park and if they really discussed it they would all say yes the parks good and that kind of keeps happening that we all support parks and recreation and maybe they should submit a priority list of things to assist in guiding their decision.

Commissioner Brann had no additional comments.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Bremicker explained the situation to the best of his knowledge regarding the incident at the Boys & Girls Club and the garden.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The next regular meeting is THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

Approved: